



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 7 July 2008

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



For info click here
<http://www.dhs.gov/>

- A team of University of California San Diego (UCSD) scientists - with the help of resources at the San Diego Supercomputer Center (SDSC), also at UC San Diego - have isolated more than two dozen promising and novel compounds from which new “designer drugs” might be developed to combat bird flu. (See item [24](#))
- The American Civil Liberties Union and the Electronic Frontier Foundation filed a lawsuit yesterday in U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, saying U.S. residents should have a right to know the extent of mobile phone tracking done by U.S. attorneys’ offices. (See item [32](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

Production Industries: [Energy; Chemical; Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste; Defense Industrial Base; Dams](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance; Transportation; Postal and Shipping; Information Technology; Communications; Commercial Facilities](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture and Food; Water; Public Health and Healthcare](#)

Federal and State: [Government Facilities; Emergency Services; National Monuments and Icons](#)

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED,
Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *July 3, Associated Press* – (International) **Oil price soars to record above \$145.** Oil soared to a record above \$145 a barrel Thursday, fueled by concerns over a larger-than-expected drop in U.S. stockpiles and the threat of conflict with Iran. Late afternoon in Singapore, light, sweet crude for August delivery was up \$1.28 at \$144.85 a barrel in Asian electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Earlier in the session, it rose as high as \$145.09 a barrel, a trading record. That was after setting a new closing record for floor trade Wednesday at \$143.57 – a full \$2.60 above the previous close. The latest spike means a barrel of crude has gone up by more than half since the end of last

year, when oil was going for \$96 a barrel.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2008/BUSINESS/07/03/oil.prices.ap/index.html>

2. *July 3, Moscow News* – (National) **Venezuela sends less oil to U.S., more to China.**
U.S. imports of Venezuelan oil and oil products fell by 11.7 percent to a five-year low in the first four months of the year, the U.S. government said Monday, while Venezuela boosted oil shipments to China instead. U.S. imports of Venezuelan crude oil fell 7.4 percent to an average 990,000 barrels per day in the first four months of the year, while imports of Venezuelan petroleum products fell 32.7 percent to an average 144,000 barrels per day, the U.S. Energy Information Administration said. The decline comes as U.S. crude imports are falling across the board and amid efforts by Venezuelan state oil company Petroleos de Venezuela SA (PDVSA) to cut its reliance on the U.S. by seeking new markets in China and India, energy analysts said. PDVSA has accordingly boosted oil shipments to China, sending 250,000 barrels of oil to the Asian giant each day as of April, and aiming to reach 500,000 barrels a day by 2010. The company has also formed joint ventures with Chinese, Iranian, and Brazilian oil companies. Venezuela is exploring investments in oil refineries in Brazil, Nicaragua, Ecuador, and other countries. Some suggest Venezuela's limited refining capacity will keep it dependent on the U.S., where roughly a third of PDVSA's extra-heavy crude was refined in 2007.
Source: <http://mnweekly.ru/business/20080703/55335794.html>
3. *July 3, SustainableBusiness.com News* – (National) **BLM lifts freeze on solar applications.** On Wednesday, SustainableBusiness.com reported that the solar industry was in an uproar over a decision by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to stop accepting applications for solar projects on public lands, while it conducted an environmental- and social-impact assessment. On Thursday, the BLM announced that it has changed its mind and will continue adding to its backlog of some 125 applications. "By continuing to accept and process new applications for solar energy projects, we will aggressively help meet growing interest in renewable energy sources, while ensuring environmental protections," the BLM director said. The president of the Solar Energy Industries Association said, "While we applaud today's announcement, BLM has only resolved half the problem. They have yet to approve a single solar energy project. Expediting the permitting process is the next step in developing solar energy projects on federal lands."
Source: <http://www.sustainablebusiness.com/index.cfm/go/news.display/id/16336>
4. *July 3, Associated Press* – (California) **Big Sur evacuates as massive wildfire spreads.**
The blaze near Big Sur was one of more than 1,700 wildfires – most ignited by lightning – that have scorched more than 770 square miles and destroyed 64 structures across northern and central California since June 20, according to state officials. As night fell Wednesday, about 150,000 Southern California Edison customers in Goleta and Santa Barbara lost power when thick smoke forced the shutdown of power transmission lines. Crews restored power to about half of the affected customers.
Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/25494278/>
5. *July 2, Associated Press* – (International) **U.S.: Iran won't be allowed to close key oil**

route. The U.S. Navy and its Gulf allies will not allow Iran to seal off the strategic Strait of Hormuz, the commander of U.S. naval forces in the Persian Gulf said Wednesday. The commander made the warning during talks with naval commanders of Gulf countries in the United Arab Emirates. The one-day meeting was to focus on the security of the region's maritime and trade routes and the threat of terrorism. The commander said that if Iran chocked off the Strait of Hormuz, it would be "saying to the world that 40 percent of oil is now held hostage by a single country." "We will not allow Iran to close it," he said. His comments follow Iranian threats that it could seal off the key passageway if there is a Western attack on Tehran. But the commander said that if Iran tried to choke off Hormuz, the "international community would find its voice rapidly" against Iran. Twenty-five million barrels of oil pass through Hormuz every day – the equivalent of about \$3 billion, he said.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/25490778/>

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Chemical Industry Sector

6. *July 3, Philadelphia Business Journal* – (Kentucky) **Rohm and Haas says Ky. chemical release under control.** Rohm and Haas said Friday that a chemical leak from a rail car at its Louisville, Kentucky, plant Thursday night has been stabilized and is being monitored by local, state, and federal health and hazardous materials authorities. There were no reports of exposures, injuries, or illnesses, and neighbors reported no abnormal odors, the company said. The rail car contained a mixture of methyl methacrylate and ethyl acrylate, which are used to make acrylic emulsions for paints, caulks, adhesives, and additives for PVC products. The material vented was in very low quantities, and the rail car is positioned safely on a rail spur where it is being monitored, the company said. Production at the plant has been halted, and there is no timetable as to when production might resume, a plant spokesman said. The chemical producer said an investigation will be conducted to understand the cause of the event and to identify preventive measures.

Source: <http://www.bizjournals.com/philadelphia/stories/2008/06/30/daily40.html>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

7. *July 3, Associated Press* – (Colorado) **Federal lab ordered to stop using radioactive materials after spill.** U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) officials Wednesday ordered a federal laboratory to stop using radioactive materials until it can show its procedures are safe after a plutonium spill. The Boulder Daily Camera reports the NRC said such stop orders are rare. An expanded team of inspectors has returned to the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) three weeks after the June 9 plutonium spill. About one-fourth of a gram of powder containing plutonium spilled at the NIST lab when a vial cracked. Institute officials have said a small number of employees had internal plutonium exposure. The employees were being treated. Officials say internal plutonium exposure can lead to cancer. Officials have said

radiation was found in two buildings. The NRC says it has not identified any threats to public health or the environment.

Source: http://www.sltrib.com/news/ci_9771885

8. *July 3, Mid-Hudson News* – (New York) **Indian Point: safe but needs improvement, say NRC, Entergy.** There were no “red” level issues in the latest annual assessment of the Indian Point nuclear power plant, and only a handful of issues that rose above “green,” or issues that have very low safety significance. The bottom line, according to a U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission branch chief, is the plant is safe. But he noted what he termed a “substantial cross-cutting issue in the area of human performance related to procedural adequacy.” “We would like to see them move more quickly through improving their procedures, especially that area. We’ve had that assessment for a year and a half, now, and it’s time for them to make improvements in that area.” Entergy admitted they did not meet their own expectations in some key areas, according to the site vice president.

Source: http://www.midhudsonnews.com/News/July08/03/IP_NRC-03Jul08.html

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

9. *July 2, Air Force Print News* – (National) **Air Force strives to enhance communications networks.** Officials from the Air Force, Army, and Navy are now funding a Finnish research program that explores new approaches for improving telecommunications network management. The ultimate goal is to build on this basic research and create a cognitive network that will use rational decision-making methods to improve the speed and quality of information delivered via Defense Department networks. The problem with applying the current technology as-is to network management is that modern communications are too complex for it to work effectively. For a cognitive network to become a reality, researchers must develop new methods, metrics, and intelligent-agent controlled routers to extend cognitive approaches to full network management. The European Office of Aerospace Research and Development-funded research taking place in Oulu, Finland, will explore the use of multimodal Quality of Service metrics and negotiated control algorithms to optimize data flow by allowing the intelligent agent to give a different priority to different applications, users, or information.

Source: <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123105100>

10. *July 2, Examiner* – (Maryland) **Army, EPA clash on how to handle Fort Meade cleanup.** Maryland’s top lawmakers are calling for a congressional hearing on why the military and the federal environmental agency cannot agree on how to clean up contamination and unexploded bombs at Fort Meade. The Army so far has spent \$83 million to clean up 33 of the 51 contaminated sites at Fort Meade. Another \$25 million has been pledged, said the deputy assistant secretary of the Army. The fort commander told the Examiner in February that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is complicating the effort by adding more bureaucracy. “We know there is contamination in the soil, and there are still unexploded ordnance as well,” Davis said in an interview

Tuesday. “But there is no imminent danger on the installation or nearby.” “[The] EPA remains committed to [working] with all federal agencies to ensure compliance with the nation’s cleanup laws,” an EPA spokeswoman said in an e-mail. But local environmentalists are concerned about a pattern of disregard for the environment, as the Army ignored a request in 2007 from the Department of the Interior not to build two golf courses that would wipe out 300 acres of forest on fort property.

Source: http://www.examiner.com/a-1468821~Army_EPA_clash_on_how_to_handle_Fort_Meade_cleanup.html

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Banking and Finance Sector

11. *July 2, KSNW 3 Wichita* – (Kansas) **BWCU customers warned of e-mail scam.** Boeing Wichita Credit Union (BWCU) customers are being targeted in a phishing scam. The company’s interim CEO told KSNW they found out about the scam when their phones started ringing. “This is not a legitimate e-mail from the credit union,” said the interim CEO. The fake page looks nearly identical to the real Boeing Wichita Credit Union log in page and asks customers for their member number and PIN. That information would allow scammers to penetrate an on line bank account.

Source: <http://www.ksn.com/news/local/22836464.html>

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Transportation Sector

12. *July 3, Associated Press* – (Maine) **Fuel supplier to pull out of Maine airport.** ExxonMobil Corp. says it plans to stop supplying jet fuel to Bangor International Airport because of a change in the state’s corporate tax formula that led the oil giant to question the value of doing business in Maine. ExxonMobil’s latest five-year agreement with the city expires on Dec. 31 and the company gave the airport’s director the six months’ notice required to terminate it. The director recommended that the City Council grant the company the 90-day extension it requested to allow more time to study the impact of the tax change. The unitary tax law revision that took effect January 1 makes sales the only factor in assessing corporate taxes, eliminating considerations such as payroll and in-state property. ExxonMobil says that with the change, it would pay the state six times the profit it generates in Maine on everything from gas stations to jet fuel.

Source:

http://www.boston.com/news/local/maine/articles/2008/07/03/fuel_supplier_to_pull_out_of_maine_airport/

13. *July 3, infoZine* – (Missouri) **Five-year Missouri transportation program approved, shows looming drop in funding.** The Missouri Highways and Transportation (MoDOT) Commission today approved a new five-year transportation construction program that shows spending for Missouri’s roads and bridges will plummet in fiscal year 2010, which begins July 1, 2009, to a program where limited funding will only cover minimal maintenance and safety work. The 2009-2013 transportation program

includes \$300 million in new construction projects because lengthened bond terms and lower than expected interest rates provided additional Amendment 3 bonding capacity. The \$140 million bonded amount, combined with state savings from using Practical Design on projects and local matching funds, allows the Missouri Department of Transportation to tackle these new highway projects over the next five years, including additional lanes, interchange improvements, and congestion relief. “Even though it’s great news to be able to pursue this additional work, we can’t overlook that in this program the Amendment 3 bond proceeds are used up, and our state transportation program goes back to critically low spending levels,” MoDOT’s director said. “The program that’s been approved marks the shift from having the opportunity to build new projects to barely maintaining what we have.”

Source: <http://www.infozine.com/news/stories/op/storiesView/sid/29191/>

14. *July 3, Associated Press* – (National) **‘Go-arounds’ are possible safety hazard.** A United Airlines jetliner was coming in for a landing at the Las Vegas airport in 2006 when the tower radioed that a smaller plane was still crossing the runway. When the United pilot executed a “go-around,” a routine maneuver in which an incoming plane pulls up at the last minute and circles around, the jet suddenly found itself on a collision course with an American Airlines plane taking off from an intersecting runway. Disaster was averted, but the near-collision offered a frightening vision of what can happen during a go-around at the nation’s congested airports. An Associated Press review of tower logs and summaries from eight of the nation’s busiest airports, obtained through the Freedom of Information Act, found more than 1,500 go-arounds during the last six months of 2007 alone. Go-arounds have not been blamed for any crashes or midair collisions involving commercial airliners over the past three decades, according to a review of National Transportation Safety Board records. Still, there have been some close calls, and controllers worry that without more safeguards, a deadly accident is going to happen. The Federal Aviation Administration said the practice has been discontinued based on the recommendations made by its Air Traffic Safety Office.
Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080703/ap_on_re_us/airport_go_arounds
15. *July 2, Orange County Register* – (California) **Irvine man arrested in LAX bomb threat.** A 27-year-old Irvine man claiming to have a bomb in his backpack walked up to police officers at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) on Wednesday morning and said he was going to blow up the airport, prompting the closure of the upper- and lower-level roads near Tom Bradley International Terminal during a busy holiday travel week, police said. No explosives were found inside the backpack. The man was arrested on suspicion of making a false bomb threat, which is a felony. He might also face federal charges of making a false threat. The Joint Terrorism Task Force in Los Angeles is continuing to investigate. The Los Angeles incident is eerily similar to a bomb threat made just an hour earlier at the World Bank in Washington, D.C., when a man approached a security guard with a package claiming it was a bomb. Nearby streets to close and people inside the bank were not allowed to leave.
Source: <http://www.ocregister.com/articles/lee-police-airport-2083380-angeles-backpack>

16. *July 2, Aviation News* – (Virginia) **TSA deploys canine teams at Dulles.** The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Wednesday announced the certification of three new TSA canine teams to enhance explosives detection capabilities at Washington Dulles International's air cargo facilities. The Dulles teams began training in January and graduated after a 10-week training course at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio. The teams have been certified in their local environment and are now fully operational. The agency said it will train and certify more than 400 explosives detection canine teams, composed of one dog and one handler, during the next two years. Eighty-five of these teams will be TSA employee-led and will primarily search cargo bound for passenger-carrying aircraft. These TSA canine handlers are non-law enforcement employees and will complement the more than 500 TSA-certified state and local law enforcement teams currently deployed nationwide to 75 airports and 14 mass transit systems.

Source: http://www.aviationnews.net/?do=headline&news_ID=156663

17. *July 2, Reuters* – (Midwest) **Mississippi River to reopen fully next week.** The upper Mississippi River is expected to fully reopen no later than July 8 after being closed for nearly a month due to the worst flooding in the U.S. Midwest in 15 years, said U.S. grain traders on Wednesday. For barges to move freely on the most important U.S. commercial waterway several locks must reopen and a railroad drawbridge must be repaired that spans Louisiana, Missouri, and Pike County, Illinois. Lock 20 near Canton, Missouri, is expected to be the final lock and dam to reopen, said the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Four other locks remained closed on Wednesday but were expected to reopen on Thursday and Friday. Lock 20 sits at a lower elevation than the other locks, the Corps of Engineers said. Kansas City Southern must also repair the Louisiana Railroad Bridge that sits above Lock 24. The bridge reopened to rail traffic on July 1. However, flood waters must recede further to begin repairs to make it safe to operate as a drawbridge for marine traffic, said a spokeswoman for the railroad.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN0241989320080702?sp=true>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report

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Agriculture and Food Sector

18. *July 3, Fort Scott Tribune* – **Alfalfa farmers beware of destructive blister beetles, cause toxic contamination of hay.** Blister Beetles contain cantharidin which is a chemical irritant capable of blistering body tissues that are exposed to the chemical. Most frequently, livestock come into contact with these beetles when they consume alfalfa hay containing dead beetles. Once hay is contaminated with cantharidin, the hay

will not lose its toxicity as cantharidin is a stable compound, withstanding degradation by heating or drying. Therefore it is important to keep the beetles alive and healthy so they can remove themselves from the field. Contact with the chemical causes blisters and ulcerations to occur on body tissues. Colic and diarrhea may be noted along with blood and/or discarded intestinal linings. Lowered calcium levels may result in body tremors or breathing patterns characterized by periodic jerks of the diaphragm. Other complications may include congested mucal membranes, elevated temperature, pulse and breathing rates, and depression and shock.

Source: <http://www.fstribune.com/story/1441790.html>

19. *July 3, HealthDay News, National Institutes of Health, SAPA* – (International)

Salmonella outbreaks on the rise. Danish health officials fear more than 4,000 people may be infected with salmonella and are checking to find the source of what may be the worst outbreak in 15 years. The Ministry of Health has said that 330 cases have been confirmed and about a quarter of those people have been hospitalized. No deaths have yet been reported and it is believed the source is some sort of Danish food product distributed only in Denmark, since neighboring countries have not reported an outbreak. They believe it probably is meat, but they do not know which product. This comes as the U.S. continues their battle with a massive salmonella outbreak which has hit more than 800 people so far. According to HealthDay News, the current figures for the U.S. outbreak stand at 869, with 107 hospitalizations. While tomatoes are still the primary suspected source of the U.S.'s bacterial infections in the two-month-old outbreak, officials have said they cannot rule out other food items associated with tomatoes. The Food and Drug Administration has also activated the Food Emergency Response Network, which could bring to 100 the number of laboratories across the U.S. working to identify the source of the outbreak. The network has been activated before, specifically during the spinach outbreak and the contaminated pet food outbreak in 2007.

Source: http://www.health24.com/news/DietFood_News_Feed/1-3420,47075.asp

20. *July 2, United Press International* – (National) **FDA: Food protection plan shows progress.**

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) says its plan to keep U.S. citizens enjoying one of the safest food supplies in the world shows significant progress. The FDA said its Food Protection Plan Progress Report, released Wednesday, shows significant areas of activity in its efforts to address domestic and global changes in food supply. "The Food Protection Plan is the comprehensive framework the agency needs to enhance the protection of our nation's food supply," said the FDA commissioner. "Implementing the strategic approaches outlined in the plan is essential if we are to enhance our ability to respond and intervene in foodborne outbreaks."

Source:

http://www.upi.com/Science_News/2008/07/02/FDA_Food_protection_plan_shows_progress/UPI-47361215008329/

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Water Sector

21. *July 3, Science Daily* – (National) **Toward long-range beach forecasts on bacterial contamination.** Long-range forecasts of beach bacterial contamination are inching closer to reality because of a new water quality prediction method scheduled for publication in the July 15 issue of the ACS' Environmental Science & Technology, a semi-monthly journal. "For the first time, this study showed that bacteria concentrations could be forecasted with reasonable accuracy, hastening the day when people will be able to better plan their beach holidays," the report says. The study explains that decisions on whether beaches are safe for swimming, or should be closed due to fecal contamination, are based on testing the water for E. coli. However, existing tests take 24 hours to complete, providing a backward-only look at conditions the previous day. As a result, beaches may be closed unnecessarily when water quality has improved, or open when water quality has declined and disease-causing microorganisms are present. Building on modeling studies in the Great Lakes by the U.S. Geological Survey and others, the researchers developed "Virtual Beach," a broadly-applicable software tool for the development of models that predict concentrations of indicators of fecal contamination at beaches. Unique features of Virtual Beach are the ability to evaluate a dynamic modeling approach for using short-term data sets to rapidly develop reliable models, and the use of available weather and marine forecast variables to forecast E. coli levels 24 hours or more in advance.
Source: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/06/080630112242.htm>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

22. *July 3, Washington Post* – (New York) **Firings and dismay after woman's death at hospital.** The agency that runs the New York City's public hospitals has fired six staff members after a woman who had waited nearly 24 hours to be seen in a Brooklyn public hospital died after collapsing and convulsing on the floor for nearly an hour. Several hospital staff members looked at her and one staff member even prodded her with her foot as she lay on the floor, but none attended to her. The agency has promised a list of improvements, but the incident, "which ended up on YouTube, has hit a raw nerve." After the incident received a wide public airing, the Health and Hospitals Corp agreed to limit the number of patients in the emergency room to 25, and to check on them every 15 minutes, in order to settle a federal lawsuit filed by the New York Civil Liberties Union and others. The suit, filed last year, describes the emergency room and inpatient unit at Kings County Hospital Center, where the incident occurred, as "a chamber of filth, decay, indifference and danger" and said patients are routinely neglected and drugged into submission.
Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/02/AR2008070202799.html>
23. *July 2, Atlanta Journal-Constitution* – (Georgia) **State may face repeat of West Nile spike.** Last year, cases of West Nile virus spiked in Georgia. The spike was likely fueled by drought conditions that allow the mosquito that spreads the disease to thrive. Health experts are expecting a similar number of cases this summer. While the disease remains rare in Georgia, when it strikes, it can cause devastating paralysis, weeks-long fever,

fatigue and other symptoms. It sickened at least 52 Georgians in 2007, up from eight reported cases in 2006, according to reports filed with the Georgia Division of Public Health. State health officials said they believe Georgia's drought is fueling the increase, though the exact cause is unknown. The drought has reduced the number of nuisance mosquitoes in the state, health officials said. But the Southern House Mosquito, which spreads West Nile virus, likes to breed in small pools of water and storm drains — and its populations flourish when rain doesn't flush them away.

Source:

http://www.ajc.com/metro/content/metro/stories/2008/07/02/westnile_0703.html

24. *July 2, Science Daily* – (National) **Potential new drug candidates to combat 'bird flu' identified.** A team of University of California San Diego (UCSD) scientists - with the help of resources at the San Diego Supercomputer Center (SDSC), also at UC San Diego - have isolated more than two dozen promising and novel compounds from which new "designer drugs" might be developed to combat bird flu. In some cases, the compounds appeared to be equal or stronger inhibitors than currently available anti-flu remedies. "If those resistant strains begin to propagate, then that's when we're going to be in trouble, because we don't have any anti-virals active against them," said a postdoctoral fellow in chemistry at UCSD. "So, we should have something as a backup, and that's exactly why we're working on this." Avian flu has provoked considerable concern since humans have little or no immune protection against the virus. While flu vaccines are being developed, it could take up to nine months for an effective vaccine to be developed against any new strains, and could still be rendered ineffective if any new strains arise over that time. Should the virus gain the capacity to spread from person to person, the result could be a worldwide outbreak or pandemic.

Source: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/07/080702134900.htm>

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Government Facilities Sector

Nothing to report

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Emergency Services Sector

25. *July 3, Seacoast Online* – (Maine) **Sen. Collins announces funding for first responders.** A Maine senator recently announced that the Department of Homeland Security has awarded the state more than \$242,000 in grants to fund improvements for emergency communications capabilities for first responders. "Emergency communications is a critical issue," she said. "Hurricane Katrina and the events of Sept. 11 have shown us that our first responders and emergency services personnel often lack the equipment that allows for communication between multiple fire, police, and rescue departments, along with local, state, and federal agencies."

Source:

<http://www.seacoastonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080703/BIZ/807030340&>

[sfad=1](#)

26. *July 2, KMSB 11 Tucson* – (Arizona) **EMS debuts multi-injury medical trailer.**

Sonoita-Elgin Fire District in southern Arizona now has a new tool to help paramedics responding to major accidents or emergencies with a large number of victims. The simple trailer is outfitted with a slew of medical equipment including spine boards, oxygen tanks, and I-V supplies to help Emergency Medical Services handle up to 15 injured patients. When a call comes in the trailer hooks up to a truck, and EMS says it takes just about one minute to get everything ready. The trailer is a welcome addition after the district had a string of six months with four multi-casualty incidents.

Source:

http://www.fox11az.com/news/topstories/stories/KMSB_20080702_dc_jh_trailer.19b85def.html

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Information Technology

27. *July 3, MyBroadband* – (National) **Microsoft highlights malware problem.** Cyber-criminals changed tactics in the last six months of 2007, with a steep rise in malware as a tool for targeting computer users for profit, according to Microsoft's newly-released Security Intelligence Report. The report focuses on the second half of 2007 and uses data derived from a range of tools running on approximately 450 million computers worldwide to provide an in-depth, global view of software vulnerabilities, software exploits, malicious software, and potentially unwanted software. Microsoft saw the number of Trojan downloader programs it removed from Windows machines jump by 300 percent, said Microsoft SA's security expert. "These programs masquerade as legitimate pieces of software, but once installed, they then download malicious software such as spyware or adware onto the victim's computer. They are typically installed via the Web." The report showed an overall decline in new security vulnerability disclosures by 15 percent for the second half of 2007 and a decrease in total vulnerability disclosures by five percent for all of 2007. Vulnerabilities are weaknesses in software that allow an attacker to compromise the integrity, availability or confidentiality of that software. The data reveals a 300 percent increase in the number of trojan downloaders and droppers- malicious code used to install files on users' systems - illustrating that the malware category continues to grow in popularity among attackers. The report shows a 66.7 percent increase in the number of potentially unwanted software detections - programs that may impact user privacy or security by performing actions the person may not want - between 1 July and 31 Dec, with a total of 129.5 million pieces of potentially unwanted software found on users' systems.

Source: <http://mybroadband.co.za/news/Software/4364.html>

28. *July 3, Register* – (International) **Built-in browser expiry proposed to fight botnet menace.** After data analyzed security researchers from IBM's ISS security division, Google and ETH Zurich University, revealed that 45.2 percent of all internet surfers neglect to regularly update their browser software, an IBM security researcher has suggested that browser makers could improve internet security by taking a leaf from the

book of food manufactures and applying a “best before” date to browser and plug-in software. The theory is that a built-in expiry date would ensure that more users update in a timely fashion. Slackness in applying updates in a timely fashion leaves an estimated 637 million surfers vulnerable to drive-by download attacks, according to a new survey. Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2008/07/03/browser_insecurity_survey/

29. *July 2, Computerworld* – (National) **Mozilla patches 13 bugs in Firefox 2.** After patching its older Firefox 2.0 yesterday to quash 13 bugs, Mozilla Corp. announced that it would end support for the browser in mid-December. Mozilla last patched Firefox 2.0 in April. Firefox 2.0.0.15 addresses 13 vulnerabilities, five of which the open-source company rated “critical,” according to advisories posted on Mozilla’s site Tuesday. Of the remaining bugs, four were labeled “high,” two as “moderate,” and two as “low.” Three of the five critical flaws could be exploited by attackers to execute malicious code, said Mozilla, while the last two, involving JavaScript and pegged by the developer as “crashes with evidence of memory corruption,” might lead to code-execution exploits. Interestingly, one of the critical vulnerabilities isn’t within the browser per se, but crops up only when one or more add-ons, dubbed “extensions” by Mozilla, are also installed. “Firefox itself does not use this feature in a vulnerable way, and users who have not installed any add-ons are not at risk,” read the advisory. “We have, however, identified popular add-ons using this feature whose users are at risk, and there are no doubt others.” Among the extensions called out by Firefox programmers in the write-up on Bugzilla, Mozilla’s bug tracking and management system, was Google Inc.’s Google Toolbar.
- Source:
http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9106278&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: <http://www.us-cert.gov>.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Communications Sector

30. *July 3, Ann Arbor Business Review* – (Michigan) **Municipal wireless networks face setbacks, delays in many communities around Michigan.** Municipal wireless high-speed Internet projects have yet to fulfill their promise in Michigan, where officials report they are coming in late or stalled in a number of communities. In Grand Rapids a proposed next-generation wireless project will not start construction until at least 2009, a company spokeswoman confirmed this week. That is four years after 10 wireless pilot “hot spots” were set up around the city. Oakland County officials shelved the Wireless Oakland program in June due to a lack of financing for its technology and business

partner. Many municipal wireless projects were based on the potential for community development, both by narrowing the so-called “digital divide” between high- and low-income citizens and by offering communications infrastructure that promotes a more technologically-capable community. Most communities partnered with private providers, making public assets such as towers and high buildings available for wireless fidelity, or WiFi, radios funded by the private partner. Many of those projects turned out to be too large for companies to attempt at their own cost to serve a consumer market already enjoying many alternatives, said a wireless industry analyst. The resulting pullbacks could be spooking smaller communities with similar models, she said, while networks based to some extent on built-in public service usage - police, fire, public works departments, for example - tend to be more successful. That was the model adopted in Grand Rapids.

Source:

http://www.mlive.com/businessreview/annarbor/index.ssf/2008/07/municipal_wireless_networks_fa.html

31. *July 3, Pacific Magazine* – (Hawaii) **American Samoa-Hawaii fiber optic cable set for early 2009.** A fiber optic communications cable that will link American Samoa to Hawaii be deployed and connected in the first quarter of 2009, not this November, territorial officials were told today during an informational hearing. The hearing was called by the territorial government’s Project Notification and Review System Board (PNRS) to inform the public about the proposed fiber optic project and its environmental impact. The cable currently links Hawaii and New Zealand, and will be spliced with one end brought to American Samoa. The cable would then link American Samoa and Hawaii, with a spur to neighboring Samoa.

Source: <http://www.pacificmagazine.net/news/2008/07/03/american-samoa-hawaii-fiber-optic-cable-set-for-early-2009>

32. *July 2, IDG News Service* – (National) **Civil liberties groups sue U.S. over mobile phone tracking.** The American Civil Liberties Union and the Electronic Frontier Foundation are asking a federal court to order the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) to turn over records about the agency’s tracking of mobile phone users. The two civil liberties groups filed a lawsuit yesterday in U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, saying U.S. residents should have a right to know the extent of mobile phone tracking done by U.S. attorneys’ offices. In the past year and a half, multiple news reports and court cases have revealed that some U.S. attorneys were claiming not to need probable cause of a crime in order to track people using mobile phones, the groups say in their complaint. In some cases, U.S. attorneys have bypassed court-ordered warrants, with law enforcement agents obtaining “tracking data directly from mobile carriers without any court involvement,” the complaint says. A DOJ spokesman declined to comment specifically on the lawsuit, but he seemed to dispute the reports that DOJ officials were requesting tracking information without court orders.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9106078&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

33. *July 2, Associated Press* – (International) **Report: Fiber Internet growth overtakes cable.** For the first time, more people around the world are signing up for fiber-optic broadband service than for cable Internet service, according to a British research firm. Fiber providers added 4.2 million customers in the first quarter, while 2.5 million customers signed up for cable modems, according to a report released Wednesday by Point Topic. The bulk of the new fiber subscribers are in China, where 2.5 million signed up, for a total of 16.7 million. The U.S. is in fourth place after Japan and Korea. Point Topic counted 303,000 new U.S. fiber customers, for a total of 2.6 million. Fiber-optic Internet connections provide faster speeds, but the cost of the buildout is daunting. In deregulated telecommunications markets like those of the U.S. and Western Europe, carriers are unsure if fiber is worth the investment because they are competing there with cheaper technologies like cable and DSL, and it's unclear how much regulators will let them profit. Verizon Communications Inc. is the only major U.S. telecommunications company to pull fiber all the way to subscriber homes. Verizon accounts for slightly more than two-thirds of total U.S. fiber hookups. The rest of the fiber-to-the-home, or FTTH, deployments are by small phone companies and by municipalities.
- Source: http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5g7FQbmkZXRvknSQtfWXETR3DPd_QD91LSKIO4

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Commercial Facilities Sector

34. *July 3, Greene County Daily World* – (Indiana) **Bomb threat at Linton Wal-Mart.** A bomb threat was called into the Linton Wal-Mart store between 4 and 4:40 a.m. Thursday. The store is closed, and will remain closed until police and store officials search the building. According to the Linton police chief an unknown caller called in the threat.
- Source: <http://gcdailyworld.com/story/1441858.html>
35. *July 3, Macomb Daily* – (Michigan) **Woman arrested in bomb threat.** The person who called in a bomb threat to Allegra Communications in Clinton Township has been charged with placing a false bomb threat, a 4-year felony. A Clinton Township police lieutenant said a 48-year-old former disgruntled employee of the firm admitted to placing the call on Wednesday. Police evacuated the building and had a portion of the major intersection closed for some time while a bomb sniffing dog went through the building looking for an explosive device, he said. "We were able to trace the call to the woman's cell phone," he said. "The woman, who is in the company's training program, said her father is dying of cancer and the company wouldn't let her take time off from work to visit him."
- Source: http://www.macombdaily.com/stories/070308/loc_breaknews1.shtml
36. *July 2, Associated Press* – (District of Columbia) **Suspicious package at World Bank declared safe.** Police say a suspicious package that a man brought to the World Bank headquarters two blocks from the White House was not a threat. A District of Columbia

police officer says no explosives or hazardous materials were found. The bank said in a statement that a man approached a security officer at the entrance with a suspicious package. Police were notified and the man was taken into custody. Employees were asked to stay put until the incident was resolved. The building was not evacuated.

Source:

<http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5ht5Uynx7n7u5biZQ3hT0FTKy54nAD91M0GDO0>

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

37. *July 2, New York Times* – (Florida) **Possible flaws in state plan to rescue the Everglades.** Florida's proposed purchase of nearly 300 square miles of land for the Everglades restoration moved forward this week when water managers who would oversee the property endorsed the state's \$1.75 billion offer. The state, say some hydrologists, federal officials, and environmentalists, has bet a huge sum on oft-fertilized farmland that could take at least a decade and billions of dollars to rehabilitate. The most immediate concerns center on geography, pollution, and cost. State officials have described the property, now owned by United States Sugar, as a "missing link" between Lake Okeechobee and Everglades National Park. To create a continuous water flow south, state officials have said they would swap land with Florida Crystals, a major sugar producer in the area. The state is expected to offer land on the lake's southwestern edge, with its fertile muck, in exchange for eastern acres closer to man-made wetlands that are already built. United States Sugar's land involves several known challenges. In some areas, soil to a depth of 20 feet has been lost. Scientists predict that simply flooding it would create a water-soaked forest of nonnative plants that thrive on the phosphorous left over from fertilization. The cost of such a project remains unclear, but engineers predict that it could top \$1 billion. The fate of the land, like the Everglades itself, will ultimately depend on the federal government. When Congress approved the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan eight years ago, it agreed to a 50-50 state and federal partnership, yet it has contributed a fraction of the \$2.4 billion that Florida has allocated.

Source: http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/02/us/02everglades.html?_r=2&oref=slogin

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Dams Sector

38. *July 3, Hawk Eye* – (Iowa) **Privately owned dam remains a flood risk.** The possibility remains that a privately owned earthfill dam in Des Moines County, Iowa, could give way and flood nearby properties and a county highway. That was the conclusion reached Wednesday by an Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) official who inspected an embankment dam. The owner "is working with us to minimize the risk, but the dam is still unstable," said an environmental specialist with the DNR. "The west side of the dam is in very poor condition. Seepage has caused the embankment to become unstable. The problem lies in how the dam was built." Last week, the owner was served with a

violation notice for failing to obtain a DNR permit before constructing the nearly 500-foot-long dam. On Tuesday, the owner said he was unaware he was required to obtain a DNR permit. He said he has hired an engineer to assess the situation and to come up with a plan to mitigate safety concerns. To reduce the risk of flooding, the owner has been asked to reduce the pond's depth to 15 feet or less.

Source: <http://www.thehawkeye.com/Story/flood-zaiser-070308>

39. *July 2, Scripps Howard News Service* – (National) **America's neglected levees put millions in danger.** Earthen berms, dikes, and levees identical to those overtopped and breached in scores of places along swollen Midwest rivers in recent weeks make up the vast majority of flood protection efforts across the U.S. Well before record floods overwhelmed scores of levees in the Mississippi River watershed, government officials at all levels had raised concern about the ability of such structures to protect property and lives. But a review by Scripps Howard News Service of levee oversight and funding at the state and national level suggests the new focus still may not be sufficient to overcome decades of neglect. Among the findings were: the government does not know where all the levees are or in what condition they are in; the maintenance of levees is behind schedule; less than 50 percent of states have an agency responsible for levee safety; and relatively few new levees have been built in recent years.

Source: <http://www.scrippsnews.com/node/34421>

40. *July 2, Scripps Howard News Service* – (District of Columbia) **Levee gaps could swamp Smithsonian, National Mall.** Gaps deliberately left in a Depression-era levee could let as much as ten feet of water rush over much of downtown Washington, inundating Smithsonian museums holding precious art and American icons and spreading to the base of Capitol Hill. The Justice Department, the Department of Health, and Human Services and even the National Weather Service headquarters all could be swamped, along with several hundred homes and scores of commercial office buildings. That is a scenario that could unfold if the levee gaps are not fixed, say federal officials overseeing the creation of new flood hazard maps for the city. The Federal Emergency Management Agency had planned to designate the new flood zone effective in September, but agreed to rescind the changes after D.C. officials pledged \$2.5 million toward a temporary floodgate installation that could satisfy U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and FEMA concerns. The permanent floodgate project envisioned by the Corps has a price tag of about \$10 million and could take as long as four years to complete.

Source: <http://www.scrippsnews.com/node/34414>

41. *July 2, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* – (Wisconsin) **Nemahbin Roller Mill Dam will be drawn down.** The privately owned Nemahbin Roller Mill Dam will be drawn down starting Monday and remain that way until it is rebuilt or abandoned, the state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) said Wednesday. Citing safety reasons, which were not specified, a statement released by the department says the drawdown will reduce pressure behind the dam. The dam failed during recent heavy rains after more water was released from the Fish Hatchery Dam – also known as the Nagawicka Dam – upstream on Lake Nagawicka to lower the lake level. That sent more water into Upper

and Lower Nemahbin lakes, causing flooding there. The dam's owner has petitioned the state to allow her to abandon the dam, which was built in 1839 and later converted into an electricity-generating facility. The facility has not been operated for many years and fell into disrepair. The DNR said the 12 boards of the dam that hold back water in the impoundment pond will be removed at the rate of one every four days. All of the boards will be removed by September 1, the department's statement says.

Source: <http://www.jsonline.com/story/index.aspx?id=768809>

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